

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Viktor Simkovic (Reg. No. 56,012) on 4/22/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 30 has been amended as follows:

A system, comprising:

a first server to:

generate a custom news document, where the custom news document includes a plurality of custom news sections;

assign one or more of a keyword or phrase, a topical category, or a geographic category to each one of the plurality of custom news sections;

embed search queries into the custom news content document, where each of the embedded search queries includes a respective one of the assigned one or more keywords, one or more topical categories, or one or more geographic categories associated with a respective one of the plurality of custom news sections,

receive, from a client device, a request to access the news content,

send the embedded search queries across a network to a second server,
in response to receiving the request; and
the second server to:
receive the embedded search queries,
crawl a corpus of news documents hosted at a plurality of remote servers
to obtain news content,
search the obtained news content based on the received embedded
search queries to obtain search results, and
provide news content to the first server based on the search results;
the first server further to:
populate the plurality of custom news sections with the received news
content; and
permit a plurality of users to access, from across the network, the custom news
document that includes the received news content, where the first server, the second
server, and the plurality of remote servers comprise different network devices that
connect to the network.

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

A method performed by one or more server devices, the method comprising:
generating, by at least one of the one or more server devices, a custom news
document, where the custom news document includes a plurality of custom news
sections;

assigning, by at least one of the one or more server devices, one or more of a keyword or phrase, a topical category, or a geographic category to the custom news sections ~~of a custom news document~~;

embedding, by at least one of the one or more server devices, search queries in particular locations of the custom news document, where each of the search queries includes a respective one of the assigned one or more keywords, one or more topical categories, or one or more geographic categories, associated with a respective one of the custom news sections;

receiving, by at least one of the one or more server devices, ~~a selection of a~~ request to access the custom news document from a user via a client device;

retrieving, by at least one of the one or more server devices, one of the embedded search queries in response to receiving the selection of the custom news document; [[and]]

sending, by at least one of the one or more server devices, query data comprising the one of the embedded search queries to a news search server that has crawled a corpus of news documents hosted on other servers and stored information associated with the crawled documents in a repository of crawled documents, where news content is obtained by the news search server from a search of the repository of crawled documents based on the one of the embedded search queries;

receiving, by at least one of the one or more server devices, the news content from the news search server; and

populating, by at least one of the one or more server devices, at least some of the plurality of custom news sections with the received news content.

Claim 34 has been canceled.

Claim 36 has been amended as follows:

One or more physical memory devices storing instructions executable by one or more processors, the one or more physical memory devices comprising:

one or more instructions to generate a custom news document, where the custom news document includes a plurality of custom news sections;

one or more instructions to assign one or more keywords or phrases, one or more topical categories, or one or more geographic categories to each one of the plurality of custom news sections;

one or more instructions to embed search queries within the custom news document, where the embedded search queries comprise applets or iframes that ~~includes~~ include one or more instructions to submit respective ones of the one or more keywords or phrases, one or more topical categories, or one or more geographic categories to a news search server;

one or more instructions to receive, across a network connection, a selection of the custom news document from a user at a client device;

one or more instructions to execute the one or more instructions associated with the applets or iframes, in response to receiving the selection of the custom news document;

one or more instructions to receive news content from the news search server that is related to the one or more keywords, one or more topical categories, or one or more geographic categories;

one or more instructions to sort the received news content based on at least one of a news source, author, or news category; and

one or more instructions to populate the custom news document with the sorted news content for access by the user.

Claim 44 has been amended as follows:

The one or more physical memory devices of claim 36, where the received news content is selected from a particular group of news content based on ~~the~~ one of the embedded search queries.

Claim 49 has been amended as follows:

A system comprising:

a server device to:

generate a custom news document, where the custom news document includes a plurality of custom news sections;

assign one or more of a keyword or phrase, a topical category, or a geographic category to each of the plurality of custom news sections;

embed search queries into the custom news content document, where the embedded search queries include an applet or an iframe that includes one or more instructions to submit the assigned one or more of a keyword or phrase, topical category, or geographic category to a news server in response to receiving a request to access the custom news document;

receive, from a client device, [[a]] the request to access the custom news document;

send the embedded search queries across a network to [[a]] the news server, in response to receiving the request, where the news server obtains news content based on the embedded search queries;

receive the obtained news content from the news server in response to sending the embedded search queries; and

populate the plurality of custom news sections with the received news content.

Claim 50 has been amended as follows:

The system of claim 49, where the ~~embedded search queries include an applet or an iframe~~ plurality of custom news sections include one or more of:

a title section;

a news section;

a local news section;

a related stories section;

a photo section; or

a blog section.

Claim 51 has been amended as follows:

The system of claim ~~50~~⁴⁹, where the ~~applet or iframe includes one or more instructions to submit the one or more of a keyword or phrase, topical category, or geographic category to the news server in response to receiving the request to access the custom news document~~ server device is further to:

customize the custom news document using input received from a user, where, when the server device is to customize the news document using input received from the user, the server device is to:

add a new news section;

move a news section to a different location in the custom news document;

delete a news section;

change a rank property associated with a news section; or

change a display property associated with a news section.

Reason for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 30, 33, 35 – 36, 44 – 45 and 49 – 51 are allowed.

Applicant's invention is directed to systems and method for hosting customized news content aggregated by a news aggregation service.

The primary prior art Sponheim discloses an event driven system and method for retrieving and displaying information in response to a user selection. Sponheim teaches the use of "iframe" that provides a back channel to a database.

However, Sponheim fails to disclose the combination of elements recited in the independent claims, including embedding search queries in the custom news document, news search server retrieving news content based on the embedded search queries, populating the news sections within the custom news document with the retrieved news content, use of iframe or applet as embedded search query, etc.

For this reason, claims 30, 33, 35 – 36, 44 – 45 and 49 – 51 are hereby allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANGWOO AHN whose telephone number is (571)272-5626. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on (571)272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tim T. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2168

4/29/2011
/S. A./
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